



## **Agency Announces Statewide Professional Learning Network**

**MONTPELIER** – The Vermont Agency of Education announced a collaborative partnership with three regional professional development organizations, collectively known as the Vermont Professional Learning Network (PLN). Our shared goal is to provide statewide access to high quality professional learning.

The focus of the PLN is Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation and instructional leadership. “We’ve brought on board someone who has strong ties to Vermont, Dr. Judy Carr,” said Lauren Wooden, co-director of the Vermont PLN. Carr is known for her work in education and leading statewide projects, including the Vermont Middle Grades Initiative. Carr is leading three major PLN projects with the goal of helping school districts to create systems that support productive and engaging classroom instruction and learning.

“The PLN sessions are integral and critical components of our professional development plan for implementing the Common Core State Standards,” said Paul Smith, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Curriculum Director. “Teachers and administrators are coming back from sessions with good information and solid plans for making the new standards part of daily instruction.”

The PLN website ([www.VermontPLN.org](http://www.VermontPLN.org)) hosts a blog and recently featured an address by Vermont Secretary of Education Rebecca Holcombe. In this talk, Holcombe details several issues that face Vermont schools as they work to serve students today and in the future.

“This series has brought folks together from across the state with similar job titles and often vastly differing responsibilities,” said Ellen Thompson, Essex Town School District Director of Instruction and 1993 Vermont Teacher of the Year. “The conversations have been spirited and extremely helpful for my work in Essex Town.”

The PLN is committed to creating geographic access and equity by providing high quality professional learning through virtual and in-person experiences. Currently there are three online courses open to every educator in the state. Additionally, the PLN is developing a library of articles and classroom examples to be added to the website as another tool for Vermont’s educators.

The Vermont Professional Learning Network (PLN) is a collaborative partnership between Champlain Valley Educator Development Center (CVEDC), Lamoille Area Professional Development Academy (LAPDA), Southeast Vermont Learning Collaborative (SVLC), and the Vermont Agency of Education.

Learn more about the PLN here: <http://www.vermontpln.org/>. Join the conversation on Facebook (<http://on.fb.me/1dtDSaf>), Twitter ([@VermontPLN1](https://twitter.com/VermontPLN1)), and via the blog (<http://vtpln.blogspot.com/>).